

The amendment is fully supported by the Specification and drawings, will not require an additional search, and does not raise new issues. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that this Preliminary Amendment be entered and the requested changes made.

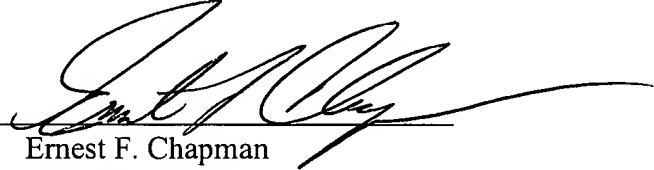
The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this preliminary amendment, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By:

  
Ernest F. Chapman  
Reg. No. 25,961

Dated: June 1, 2001  
EFC/FPD/mld  
Enclosures